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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BLANDFORD
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1955

Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Winborne.

TO:-

The Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of Blandford:-

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District of Blandford. The Report is presented as follows:-

- A. Vital Statistics.
- B. General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.
- C. Sanitary circumstances of the Area.
 - 1. Water.
 - 2. Sewerage.
 - 3. Dry refuse and salvage.
 - 4. Nuisances and Complaints.
 - 5. Summary of Inspections.
- D. Housing.
- E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- F. Factories and Workshops.
- G. Rodent Control.
- H. Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their kindness and consideration. I have much appreciated the help and co-operation given to me by the staff of the Public Health Department, officials in other departments and by my professional colleagues in practice in the area.

J.B.M. Mayes.

JULY, 1956.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BLANDFORD

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:-

S.D. Gillingham, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:-

Colonel J.L. Jones

COUNCILLORS:-

F.J. Ainsworth

Mrs. M.P. Andrews

E.G. Bailey

F.B. Ball

Capt. Gordon M. Bateman

Miss A.G. Biddlecombe

K.R. Browning

E.E. Cossins

A.B.C. Davis

P.L. Farquharson

Mrs. M.E. Goodbody

Capt. T.C.B. Harbottle.

B.A.S. Hicks

W.J. Hillier.

E.K. Hooper.

M. Hooper.

A.E. Lane

Miss L.M.P. Lewis

A.T.E. Marsh

P.R. Millson

R.E.M. Parsons

C.B.C. Roe

Lt. Colonel E.W. Seymour J.P

Lt. Colonel R.J.N. Solly

O.F. Stevens.

Dr. R.M. Taylor

Commander J.R.P. Thompson

Lt. Colonel A.L. Tidcombe M.C.

L. Tory.

L.W. Tory

R.C. Whitty.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (Part Time)

J.B.M. Mayes, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR with combined duties as Surveyor

G.S.C. Udall, M.R.S.I., H.S.I.A., A.F.S., (Eng.)

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

M. Stockley. Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

SECTION A
VITAL STATISTICS.

Area of the Rural District.....	61, 717 acres.
Population as estimated by Registrar General 30/6/55.....	13, 150
Rateable value at 31/3/55.....	£55, 849
Product of ld rate at 31/3/55.....	£ 201.10.9

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS
as supplied by the Registrar General

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total registered.....	175	92	83
Legitimate.....	165	84	81
Illegitimate.....	10	8	2

STILLBIRTHS

Total registered (legitimate).....	1	1	0
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DEATHS

Total registered.....	92	51	41
Deaths of infants under one year of age....	6	2	4

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach.....	1	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm - lung.....	4	3	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms.....	8	4	4
Leukaemia.....	2	2	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	12	6	6
Coronary disease.....	13	10	3
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	0	1
Other heart diseases.....	18	10	8
Other circulatory diseases.....	3	3	-
Pneumonia.....	5	1	4
Bronchitis.....	1	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	1	-
Ulcer stomach or duodenum.....	1	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	1	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	1	-
Congenital malformation.....	2	-	2
Other diseases.....	11	3	8
Motor accidents.....	4	3	1
All other accidents.....	2	1	1
Suicide.....	1	-	1

COMPARATIVE STATISTICSComparability factors.

Births..... 1.36.

Deaths..... 1.25

The comparability factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. The purpose of this factor is to level out the differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and enable more accurate comparisons to be made of birth and death rates in the area.

	<u>Blandford Rural</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	13.307	15. 0.
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.	13.098	-
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.....	5.68	23.1
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	6.099	11.7
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population..... using comparability factor.....	8.745	-

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICSBirths

The Birth Rate for 1955 has fallen. 13.31 in 1955, 15.09 in 1954, 14.73 in 1953, 14.25 in 1952.

Live births exceed the number of deaths by 83.

1 Stillbirth was recorded in 1955, 6 in 1954 and in 1953.

Deaths

92 persons died in 1955, of these 46 were over 70 years of age. The Death Rate for 1955 has risen very slightly - 8.75 in 1955, 8.18 in 1954, 9.27 in 1953, 7.53 in 1952.

There were no deaths from diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, measles, scarlet fever, nor from poliomyelitis. There were no maternal deaths.

In 1955, 6 infants died under one year of age.

In England and Wales, the death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 related live births was 24.9. In Blandford Rural District - 34.29

SECTION B
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester continues to give the district generous service. The Laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice-cream, and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infectious, or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castlemain House, Blandford.

WELFARE CENTRE

The Dorset County Council provide an Infant Welfare Centre at Milton Abbas, Blandford Camp and Blandford.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

The Dorset County Council provide an Ante-Natal Clinic at Blandford.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The Dorset County Council have provided a service in Blandford and surrounding district, which has proved satisfactory.

SECTION C
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA - Water Supply

<u>Water Source.</u>	<u>Villages supplied</u>	<u>Properties served.</u>	<u>Population served.</u>
BLANDFORD BOROUGH.	Blandford St. Mary Charlton Marshall Spetisbury Pimperne Langton Long.	Whole parish except for a few isolated properties.	1040 approximately.
SHAFTESBURY RDC.	Shroton Steepleton Farrington.	Whole parish except for a few isolated properties.	430 approximately.
BRYANSTON Borehole. (Council controlled)	Bryanston Durweston.	Whole parish except Bryanston School and a few isolated properties. Bryanston School supplied by Blandford Borough.	870 approximately.
STOURPAINE Borehole (Council controlled)	Stourpaine (mainly standpipes)	Whole parish except for a few isolated properties.	350 approximately.

Water Supply - continued.

<u>Water Source.</u>	<u>Villages supplied.</u>	<u>Properties served.</u>	<u>Population served.</u>
WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE R.D.C.	Tarnham.	Village only about 40 properties.	120 approximately.
<u>MILBORNE</u>	Whole of the Winterborne Valley Milborne Milton Abbas Hilton.	All properties except a few isolated ones. Highlands scheme not yet in hand.	3,000 approximately.
STUBHAMPTON.	When in service whole of Tarrant Valley. Chettle. Tarnham.	Not yet in service. Work in hand.	Nil at present.

WATER SUPPLIES

There has been one major alteration in the water supply at Tarnham, a temporary supply has been obtained from the Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District Council, this has enabled the Council to lay part of the new main through the village. Most of the premises in the village have taken advantage of the new supply and a number of improvement schemes to houses have been carried out. During the year the Gallops reservoir has been covered and the borchole at Bryanston supplies water to Durweston.

Part of the equipment for the Tarrant Valley Scheme has been installed but water will not be available until the area in the vicinity of the borchole has been sewered. When the Tarrant Valley Water Scheme is completed there remains only the Thornicombe area to receive main water. The local wells are very unsatisfactory and it was a great disappointment to hear that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government would not sanction the proposed Thornicombe extension from the Winterborne Valley supply. This small community is in urgent need of wholesome water. The number of samples of water taken for analysis has increased during the year because of trouble at Bryanston and Durweston. Contamination occurred at the Gallops Reservoir whilst this was open, the covering of the reservoir should prevent any further trouble.

Water samples taken during 1955:-

<u>Classification.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Council owned and supplying public.	44	5	49
Private estate supplying public.	43	15	63
Private estate supplying Council houses.	14	10	24
Private wells.	9	8	17
Other Local Authorities supplying through Council's system.	2	-	2
Public supplies not controlled by Council.	19	1	20
	<u>136</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>175</u>

Samples taken over the last six years:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number taken.</u>	<u>Number unsatisfactory</u>
1950.....	130	38
1951.....	113	20
1952.....	103	24
1953.....	147	26
1954.....	157	39
1955.....	175	39

DRAINAGE OF DISTRICT

8

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Existing system.</u>	<u>Council house system.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Anderson	Nil	Nil	-
Blandford St. Mary.	Main sewers.	On sewer.	Few to connect.
Bryanston.	Old village system.	Separate system.	Old village system not satisfactory.
Charlton Marshall.	Nil	Separate system.	Need for sewer.
Chettle.	Nil	Nil	E.C's and cesspits
Durweston	Old village system.	Separate system.	Need for sewer.
Farnham.	Nil	Separate system.	E.C's and cesspits
Hilton.	Nil	2 Sep. systems.	E.C's and cesspits
Shroton.	Old village system.	Cesspits.	Unsatisfactory-urgent need for sewer.
Langton.	Nil	Nil	E.C's and cesspits
Milborne.	Main sewer.	On sewer.	Some cesspits still remain.
Milton Abbas.	Main sewer.	Main sewer.	Some cesspits still remain
Pimperne.	Nil	Separate system.	Urgent need for sewer.
Spetisbury.	Nil	Separate system.	E.C's and cesspits.
Steepleton.	Nil	Nil	Not required.
Stourpaine.	Old village drains.	Separate system.	Need for sewers.
The Tarrants.	Sewer around borchole./Separate system. No properties connected to sewage plant.		E.C's-no urgent need except to complete drainage near borchole.
Turnworth	Nil	Nil	No urgent need.
Winterborne Stickland Winterborne Kingston Winterborne Whitechurch) Nil	Separate systems.	Need for sewers.
Winterborne Clonston Winterborne Houghton Winterborne Zelston.) Nil	Nil	No urgent need.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

The Milton Abbas Tip caused a nuisance to nearby houses, it caught fire during the summer and was subsequently "bulldozed" and handed back to the owner.

The Durweston Tip has been closed, "bulldozed" and handed back to the owner.

The Council use tips at Winterborne Kingston and Parnham.

It is gratifying to report a considerable increase in the amount of salvage collected and the income derived therefrom. Every encouragement has been given to the workmen to salvage everything possible and the results speak for themselves. The returns are still much below what they could be, but provided all-round co-operation is forthcoming, a target income of £500 per annum is quite possible.

Salvage figures for the past six years.

1950 - Waste paper	12 tons.....	£61. 0. 0.	£61. 0. 0.
1951 - Waste paper	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons.....	£219. 0. 0.	219. 0. 0.
1952.- Waste paper	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons.....	63. 0. 0.	63. 0. 0.
1953 - Waste paper	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons.....	25.10. 0.	
Rags.	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.....	4.15. 0.	30. 5. 0.
1954 - Waste paper	11 tons.....	60. 0. 0.	
Rags.....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.....	22. 0. 0.	
Metals.....	5 cwts.....	26.15. 0.	108.15. 0
1955 - Waste paper.	27 tons.....	204.10. 3.	
Rags.	14 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.....	27. 3. 7	
Scrap metals.	9 cwts.....	33. 15. 1.	
Batteries.....		11. 1. 0.	276. 9.11

(Workmens' bonus has been paid on this at 7/6d in the £)

From these figures you will see that 1955 has been a record year for salvage collection. This is the first year that the Council has received over £250 and the waste paper tonnage is the highest since the War. The largest amounts are obtained for rags and metals.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

During the past four years there has been a steady decline in the number of complaints. Considerable trouble from flies was experienced during the year throughout the district, most probably due to the long dry summer. A large amount of insecticide was used by members of the staff in the destruction of these pests. As a matter of interest two isolated, large, modern houses suffered from fly infestations for years, despite all our effort to eradicate them.

The complaints were made up as follows:-

Refuse.....	2
Drainage.....	18
Housing.....	27
Food.....	1
Insects.....	7
Water.....	4
Obnoxious smells.....	10
Miscellaneous.....	11
Total...	<u>80</u>

Total number of complaints over the past 6 years:-

1950.....	74
1951.....	53
1952.....	102
1953.....	90
1954.....	84
1955.....	80

Details of visits.

Nuisances and complaints.....	152
Housing Acts.....	716
Meat and Food.....	59
Cowsheds and Dairies.....	2
Water Supplies General.....	22
Water samples.....	175
Refuse Disposal & Salvage.....	78
Infectious Diseases.....	17
Factories and Workshops.....	33
Civil Defence.....	1
Milk samples.....	3
Rats/Mice.....	1
Rights of Way.....	1
River Pollution.....	1
Sewerage samples.....	6
Disinfestations.....	19
Caravans.....	42
Ministry of Health Inquiries..	2
Miscellaneous.....	84
Number of meetings attended...	97

SECTION D - HOUSING.

A. Number of new houses completed during the year:-

(1) By Local Authority:-

- (a) With State Assistance for rehousing under Housing Act, 1936 and for overcrowding.....0
 (b) With State Assistance for other purposes.....18
 (c) Without State Assistance.....0

(2) By other persons:-

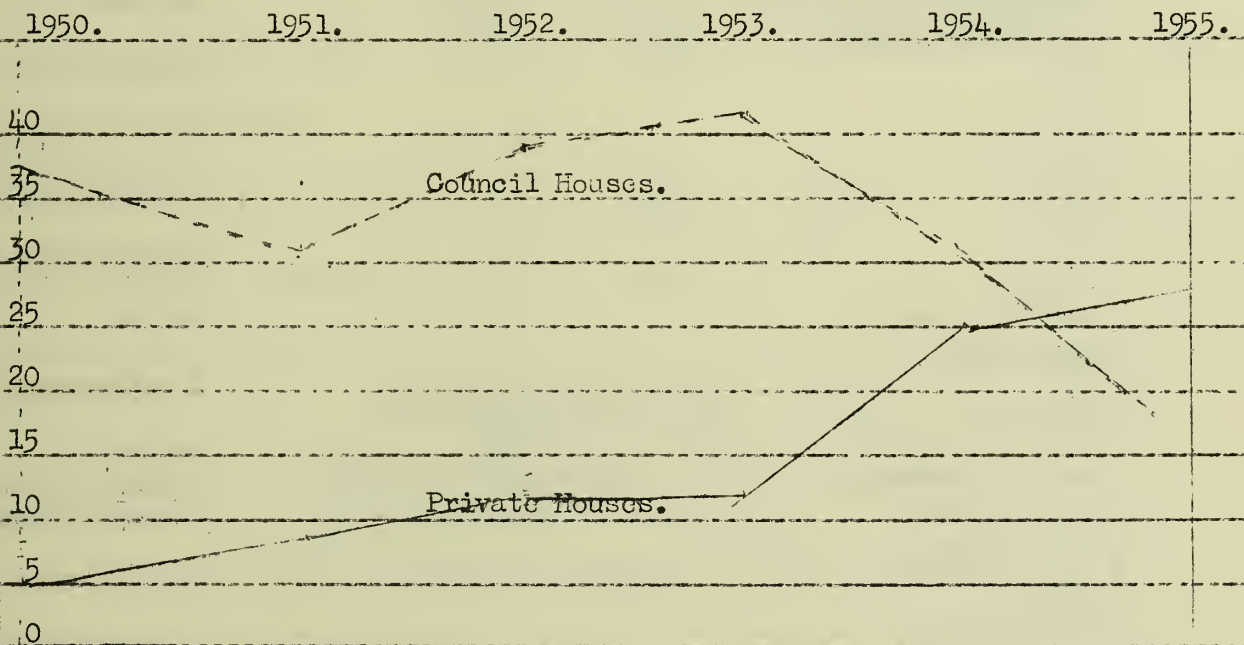
- (a) With State Assistance.....1
 (b) Without State Assistance.....28

B. Number of new houses commenced during the year but not completed:-

(1) By Local Authority with State Assistance.....13

(2) By other persons:-

- (a) With State Assistance.....1
 (b) Without State Assistance.....14

Number of Houses completed 1950 - 1955.IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Improvement Grant Scheme continued satisfactorily with 49 applications, involving 56 dwellings. Four applications were subsequently withdrawn and the Council refused one on the grounds that it did not come within the Grant Scheme. Thirty-three schemes were commenced during the year and thirty-four completed. The total sum allocated for the above scheme was £12,460, which compares with £12,600 allocated during 1954.

SECTION E
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD
PREMISES.

Routine inspections of food premises have been continued during the year.

The Bye-laws made in 1950 under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, concerning the handling and wrapping of food have proved helpful. The standard of hygiene in food premises inspected during the year was found to be satisfactory and in consequence no action was necessary under these Bye-laws.

It is interesting to note that not a single item of food has been condemned during the year ~~despite~~ the adverse weather conditions.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS
1949

The sampling officers of the Dorset County Council have taken routine samples of milk, either produced or distributed in the area. A summary of the results is appended:-

<u>Blandford St. Mary</u>	
1 non-designated, 2 T.T.	Both satisfactory
<u>Bryanston</u>	
1 non-designated, 1 T.T.	Satisfactory
<u>Charlton Marshall</u>	
3 T.T.	Satisfactory
<u>Chettle</u>	
1 T.T.	Satisfactory
<u>Durweston</u>	
1 T.T.	Satisfactory
<u>Hilton</u>	
3 T.T.	Satisfactory
<u>Parnham</u>	
1 non-designated.	Failed
<u>Langton Long</u>	
3 T.T.	2 satisfactory, 1 failed
<u>Milborne St. Andrew.</u>	
1 T.T.	Failed.
8 non-designated.	7 satisfactory, 1 failed
1 pasteurised.	1 satisfactory
<u>Milton Abbas</u>	
1 Pasteurised.	Satisfactory
<u>Pimperne</u>	
3 Pasteurised.	Satisfactory
<u>Stourpaine</u>	
75 Pasteurised.	74 satisfactory, 1 failed
<u>Tarrant Gunville</u>	
1 non-designated.	Satisfactory
<u>Tarrant keyneston</u>	
1 non-designated.	Satisfactory
<u>Winterborne Stickland</u>	
3 T.T.	Satisfactory
1 Pasteurised.	Satisfactory
1 non-designated.	Satisfactory
<u>Winterborne Whitchurch</u>	
4 T.T.	Satisfactory

Milk

Methylene Blue Test.

This is used by the Public Health Laboratory for all Milk. It indicates the keeping quality by the time taken to reduce methylene blue under defined conditions.

Phosphatase Test.

This additional test is officially applied to pasteurised milk in order to determine whether the milk has been satisfactorily heat treated.

SECTION F
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

13

There have been a few changes in the Factories' Register during the year, six have ceased to exist.

Some minor defects under the Act were found, two of unreasonable temperature and three others of insufficient sanitary accommodation:-

Number of Factories and Workshops on Register at the end of the year:-

(a)	With mechanical power.....	31
(b)	Without mechanical power.....	11
(c)	Other premises coming within the Act.....	28
(d)	Deletions from Register during the year.....	2

Number of inspections made.....	33
Number of informal notices.....	5
Number of notices complied with.....	2
Outworkers on Register.....	0

SECTION G
RODENT CONTROL

	<u>Council</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Agricultural</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number of visits made.	551	1756.	187	285	2779
Total number of premises inspected:-					
(a) on complaint.....	8	45	7	3	63
(b) on survey.....	327	782	91	152	1352
Number of premises treated..	60	272	11	27	370

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

1948
(Amendment Act) 1951 - removal of persons
in need of care and attention.

No action has been necessary under the Act.

SECTION H
PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet fever.....	8
Whooping cough.....	42
Poliomyelitis (NP).....	1
Measles.....	88
Acute Pneumonia.....	12
Erysipelas.....	4
Food poisoning.....	5
Tuberculosis.....	4 (1 pulmonary, 3 non-pulmonary)
Meningitis.....	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Number of cases on Register at 31/12/55.

Pulmonary.....	16
Non-pulmonary.....	10

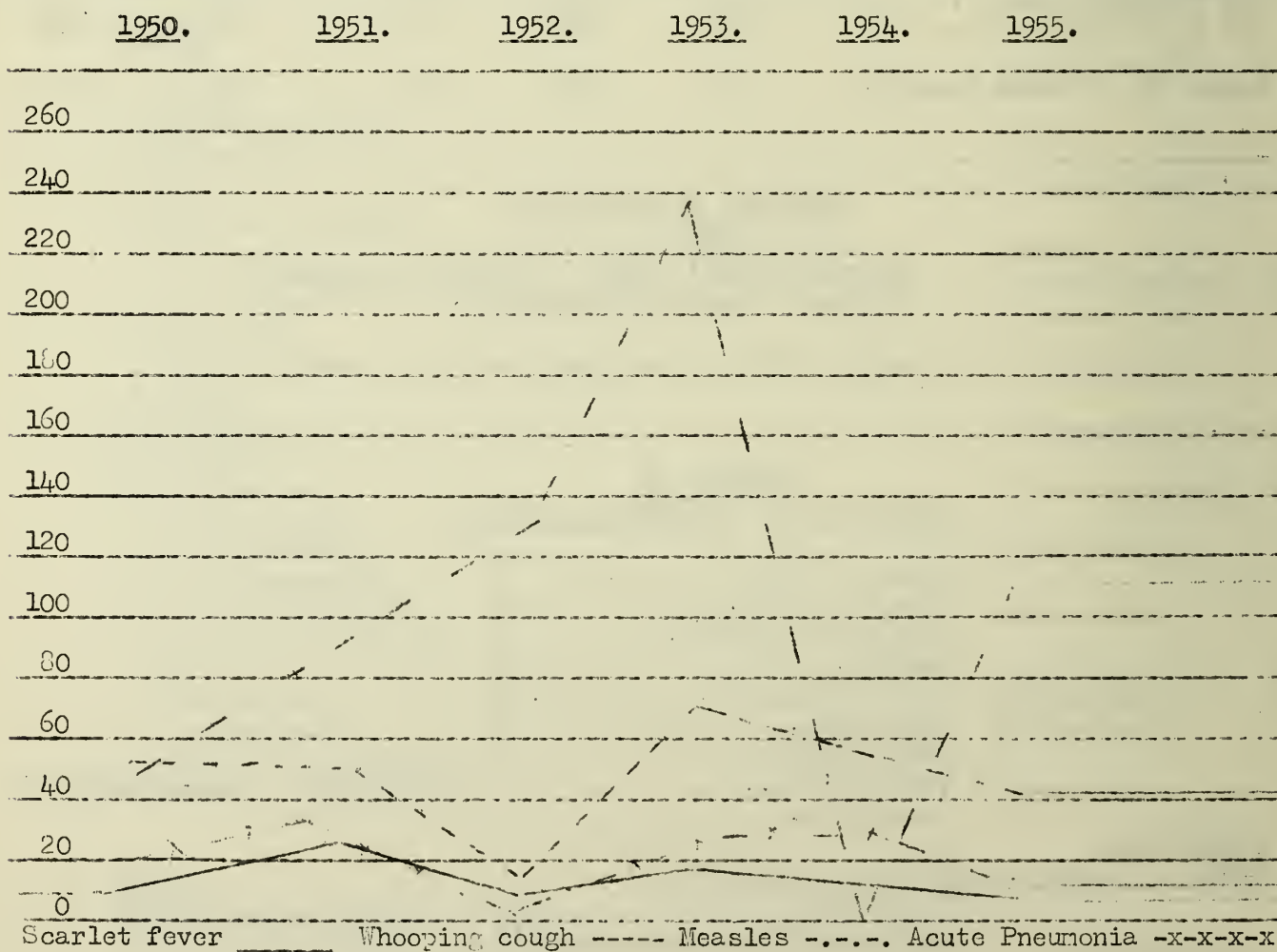
FOOD POISONING

Five cases of food poisoning were notified in the district during the year. Although the cases were fully investigated and in each case Salmonella typhimurium isolated. The source of infection remained unknown.

AGE INCIDENCE.

14

AGE.	Scarlet fever.	Whooping Cough.	Polio- myelitis	Measles.	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning.	Menin- gitis	TB
Under 1.		4		3					
1 - 2.		6		6		4			
3 - 4	2	15		5					
5 - 9	5	14		42		2			
10 -14	1	1	1	30	3		3		1
15 - 24		1		1	1			1	
25 - 44		1		1	2		1		2
45 - 64						4	1		1



1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955.

16

14

12

10

8

6

2

0

ute Poliomyelitis

-x-x-x-x-x

erculosis -.-.-.-.-

Erysipelas -----

